

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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July 16, 2013

via hand delivery

Chief Lisa Womack
Lakeland Police Department
219 N. Massachusetts Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33801

RE: State Attorney's Office Investigation of
LPD Officer Edds and Sgt. Lloyd

Dear Chief Womack:

I enclose the Investigative Report regarding the testimony of Officer David Nicholas Edds and Sgt. Ray Lloyd. I also enclose letters to Officer Edds and Sgt. Lloyd informing them that this office will no longer use them as witnesses in court.

The concern with Officer Edds is obvious and is set forth in detail in the report. The reason that I must write the letter on Sgt. Lloyd is very troubling. Sgt. Lloyd, by most accounts has had a distinguished 23 year career at LPD. However, his report writing, case preparation and courtroom testimony in the Barber and Talman cases were unsatisfactory. However, these problems would not justify a finding of untruthfulness by my office. It was Sgt. Lloyd's untruthfulness in testifying to my investigators in order to protect Lt. Hans Lehman, the head of your department's internal affairs investigations, that has left me no choice but to not use Sgt. Lloyd as a witness again.

Since the beginning of the recent issues with LPD, my investigators and your internal affairs investigators have worked together as best they could to address the tasks at hand. In looking into the Officer Edds and Sgt. Lloyd matter, my investigators reached out to Lt. Hans Lehman for assistance in obtaining the necessary documents and computer information. Most unfortunately, Lt. Lehman shared critical information with Sgt. Lloyd that compromised my office's investigation. Sgt. Lloyd used that information and on July 2, 2013, went back into the computer and finalized a report that had been closed since October 2012. Sgt. Lloyd then provided sworn testimony to my investigators that changed over the course of a several hour interview from a denial that he had a conversation with Lt. Lehman about the investigation to an admission that Lt. Lehman advised him how to fix the issues on the computer in the Talman

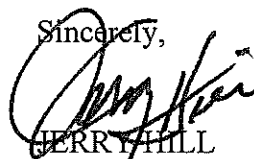
case. Additionally, and most concerning, Sgt. Lloyd testified that he was advised by Lt. Lehman that when providing his testimony to my investigators, to not be so specific in his answers and not to paint himself in a corner.

The Lehman / Lloyd incident has resulted in my office not being able to vouch for the credibility of Sgt. Lloyd and leaves us with some serious doubts about our ability to work with your internal affairs department. Is the goal of the unit to help us seek the truth or tip off officers under investigation before we are able to conclude our inquiry?

In conclusion, Officer Edds has been with your department for less than three years. Once again lack of training and supervision appears to be what led to Edds' problems. When he found himself in trouble, he was untruthful instead of admitting his mistakes. Now, my office and the citizens of Lakeland and Polk County must deal with the fact that the approximately 40 active cases that Edds investigated and is an essential witness (mostly DUI's) will have to be dismissed.

I cannot overstress the importance of officer credibility. Our profession as prosecutors means we are affecting our citizen's future by way of incarceration, probation or a felony record. We cannot do that unless we know the officers are unequivocally testifying truthfully.

Sincerely,



JERRY HILL
State Attorney